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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application. Additions to existing claims are identified by underlining. Deletions to existing claims are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~ or [[double brackets]].

1.   (Original) A method for providing SMS messages to a user having a plurality of devices including a preferred device, the method comprising:

      receiving a SMS message for one of the plurality of devices;

      determining the preferred device for receiving messages;

      formatting the SMS message according to characteristics of the preferred device; and

      sending the formatted message to the preferred device.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to a SMS-capable device.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an e-mail address.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an instant messenger client.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to a phone.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to digital companion client software.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising:

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storing messages in a database when the user's preferred device is not available to receive messages.

8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Original) An apparatus for providing SMS messages to a user having a plurality of devices including a preferred device, comprising:

  a database for storing a specification of a preferred device;

  a gateway server for receiving a SMS message sent to one of the user's devices;

  a server function for determining the preferred device; and

  a SMS server for sending the SMS message to the preferred device.

10.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the SMS server comprises a server that stores messages to a database when the user's preferred device is not available to receive messages.

11.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the SMS server comprises a server that formats the SMS message in accordance with characteristics of the preferred device before sending the message to the preferred device.

12.   (Original) An apparatus for providing SMS messages to a user having a plurality of devices including a preferred device, comprising:

  means for storing a specification of a preferred device;

  means for receiving a SMS message sent to one of the user's devices;

  means for determining the preferred device; and

  means for sending the SMS message to the preferred device.

13.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for sending the SMS message comprises means for storing messages to a database when the user's preferred device is not available to receive messages.

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14.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the means for sending the SMS message comprises means for formatting the SMS message in accordance with characteristics of the preferred device before sending the message to the preferred device.

15.   (New) A method, comprising:

receiving a plurality of identifiers associated with a respective plurality of devices;

storing the plurality of identifiers in a user profile associated with a user;

receiving a selection of a preferred device of the plurality of devices,

receiving a specification of characteristics of the preferred device;

receiving an SMS message having a destination identifier;

determining the SMS message is addressed to the user when the destination identifier is one of the plurality of identifiers;

when the SMS message is addressed to the user, determining an identifier of the preferred device, and formatting the SMS message based on the specification of characteristics of the preferred device and including the identifier of the preferred device, and sending the formatted SMS message to the preferred device.

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